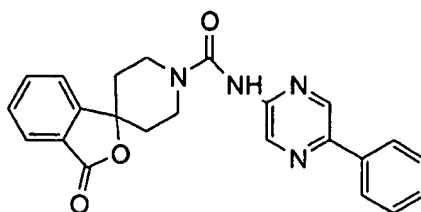


Amendments to the Claims

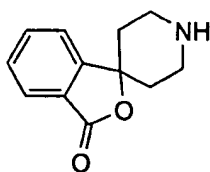
This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula I:

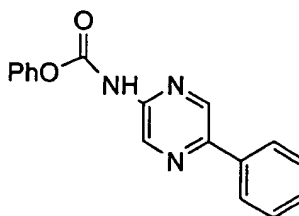


I

comprising coupling a compound of formula II with a compound of formula III in the presence of an organic base selected from the group consisting of NBu_3 , Me_2NBu and Me_2NBn in a solvent system selected from the group consisting of MeCN, MeCN/water and DMF/water.



II



III

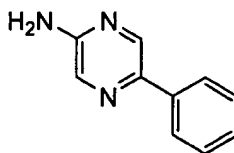
2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

2 ~~4~~. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 further comprising the step of combining 2-amino-5-phenylpyrazine (IV) and phenyl chloroformate in MeCN to yield the compound of formula III.

5. (Canceled)

³ ~~6.~~ (Currently amended) The A process for preparing a compound of formula III of Claim ~~4~~² further comprising the step of combining 2-amino-5-bromopyrazine (V) and phenyl boronic acid in an organic solvent system in the presence of a catalyst to yield the compound of formula IV.

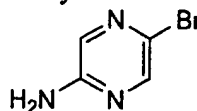


IV

³
~~4~~ ~~7.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~6~~³ wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of PdCl₂.dppf.CH₂Cl₂, Pd(PPh₃)₄, Pd(OAc)/PPh₃, Cl₂Pd[(Pet₃)₂], Pd(DIPHOS)₂, Cl₂Pd(Bipy), [PdCl(Ph₂PCH₂PPh₂)]₂, Cl₂Pd[P(o-tol)₃]₂, Pd₂(dba)₃/P(o-tol)₃, Pd₂(dba)/P(furyl)₃, Cl₂Pd[P(furyl)₃]₂, Cl₂Pd(PMePh₂)₂, Cl₂Pd[P(4-F-Ph)₃]₂, Cl₂Pd[P(C₆F₅)₃]₂, Cl₂Pd[P(2-COOH-Ph)(Ph)₂]₂, Cl₂Pd[P(4-COOH-Ph)(Ph)₂]₂.

⁴
~~5~~ ~~8.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~7~~⁴ wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of PdCl₂.dppf.CH₂Cl₂, Pd(PPh₃)₄, Cl₂Pd[P(4-F-Ph)₃]₂, Cl₂Pd[P(4-COOH-Ph)(Ph)₂]₂.

³
~~6~~ ~~9.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~6~~³ further comprising the step of combining 2-aminopyrazine and a bromination agent to yield the compound of formula V.



V

⁶
~~7~~ ~~10.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~9~~⁶ wherein the bromination agent is selected from the group consisting of Br₂, NBS, Bu₄NBr₃, N-bromo acetamide and 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

⁷
~~8~~ ~~11.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~10~~⁷ wherein the bromination agent is selected from the group consisting of NBS and 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.